

N. B. Thistles. &c. & your critique on the
Compositae of the "Genera", both of which
came to me in May 1875. Anything later
of which you might be able to spare
me copies would be extremely welcome.
I have not sent you my little articles,
not supposing that they would be of any
interest to you, but all your writings are
valuable to me. With very kind
regards and best wishes for your
continued health and activity, I
am, my dear Dr. Gray,

Very sincerely yours

A. S. Mansel

P.S. I am acting temporarily as Consul
here, but cannot say where I may be
stationed a month or two hence. But
a permanently safe address is to the
care of my London agent,
Mr. Franz Thimm,
24 Brook Street,
Greenwich Square.

H. B. M. Consulate, Canton,
21. May, 1878.

My dear Dr. Gray,
It is a very long time -
so far back as 1873, I think, - since I had
the pleasure of hearing from you. But I
received, a month or two ago, a note from
Joseph Hooker, telling me of the very enjoyable
& instructive tour he had been privileged to
make in your society, with Prof. Hayden's
party. Prof. Porter, of Canton, Pennsylvania,
too, wrote me last year that you were working
steadily at the Flora of North America, which
all botanists expect so anxiously. I have
recently procured the first vol. of the superb
Flora of California, and am really delighted
with it. When I read the preface, I felt rather
dependent as to the chances of its completion;
but I have just heard from a dear friend
of mine, Rev. J. C. Nevin, for a long while

a missionary of the
Canton, but now
stationed as one
to the Chinese at Los Angeles, that the
second vol. is likely to appear in the fall.
I have had occasion several times in Trimen's
Journal of Botany to mention Mr. Nevins's
name in connexion with Chinese botany. He
is an excellent draftsman, and a very patient
and trustworthy observer, and if you should,
in the interests of the science we are both
attached to, ever write him a line or two of
encouragement, or direct his attention to
any special group or species you may
chance to be interested in, I am quite sure
you will find him a pleasant & zealous
correspondent & inquirer. I have little doubt
that in a new country, and where workers
are necessarily few & scattered, there must
be much for him to discover; and I find
he is already enthusiastic about the
flora. My present object, in writing, is
to inclose you a few seeds of the very

rare Polygonum cornutum, Gaertn. of Agri-
phyllum gobicum, (which, if specifically distinct
from A. arenarium, I can find nowhere
described), and of a few other plants, all
from the Ordos territory in Mongolia - quite
fresh-gathered by a Belgian missionary priest,
and given me by my friend O. Bretschneider.
I think you will be very glad to get the
first named plant, at any rate, for the
Cambridge garden. It is grown by the Mongols
as a vegetable. The Agriphyllum is the Sulthir
(misprinted Sulhir) which Orzevalsky says con-
stitutes a large proportion of the food of the nomads
& animals of Ala-shan. Borkho is said to
be somewhat like Sulthir. I should be very
glad to hear that you succeeded in raising
these plants. Did you ever inquire into the
matter of your Hydrophyllum, as to whether (like
the N. asiaticum plant) the base of its stem
could be used as a vegetable? I think the
last paper of yours with a copy of which I
have been favored and your revision of ~~the~~